



Along the Towpath

Presidents' letter.....

Hi to everyone,

Barbara and I hope you each have had a good winter so far. Here it is February 1 and we have no current icy or snowy roads. Barbara and I love not having 3 feet of snow in our yards as it was in years past. Each day brings us closer to spring.

There has been a lot of activity within the guild. The Service project day was great and lots of quilts were started. Thanks go to Cindy and Marilouise who had excellent organization and direction for us to follow. Also a hand goes out to members who have given time to make the quilts at home as well as on the service project day. We are a very productive group.

Progress is being made on the quilt show. The search is on for a location. The top for the show quilt is finished and ready to go to Julia Graziano to be quilted. Everyone is working hard to make it a success.

The Nominating Committee is forming and there are several openings. Our Nominating Committee will be asking members to answer the call of being a chair, committee member, etc. We encourage some new faces for next years' officers. It seems a bit scary to say yes but Barbara and I have had all kinds of support since we agreed to be vice presidents and now presidents. Thanks to the Ann's who have answered our concerns and questions..

We are looking forward to the retreat coming in March. It will be a fun time for all and an opportunity to get to know each other better.

For now, we are focused on getting the UFO's caught up before spring when we can better enjoy the yardwork and sunshine!

Arlene King and Barbara Western



There is still time to register!

**Towpath Quilt Guild Retreat March 24-26, 2020
Christ the King Retreat and Conference Center
500 Brookford Rd, Syracuse, NY 13224**

Be prepared for three days and two nights of fun, friendship and sewing. Hopefully we will all finish some UFO's or start new projects. Door prizes will be included.

Name_____

Address_____

Preferred Phone Number_____

_____ I will attend 3 days/2 nights -Member \$245 non-member \$270. This includes a single room with 2 continental breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners.

_____ I will commute for 3 days- Member \$135 non-member \$160. This includes 2 continental breakfasts and 3 lunches.

_____ I am a commuter and interested in participating in the dinners if available (I haven't received feedback from the retreat center about the availability of dinners for commuters. As soon as I do I will contact you about the additional cost.)

Payments made out to Towpath Quilt Guild can be sent to :
Suzy Tankersley
6122 Royal Birkdale
Jamesville, NY 13078

If you have any questions or concerns- please contact Barb at 315-622-8601

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Tip for cleaning your machine: if you are in the habit of cleaning around the bobbin case when you put in a new bobbin, be sure you put a little drop of oil on the hook in the bobbin area. What I just discovered is that it is also a great idea to remove the needle plate (you know the part that is over the feed dogs) and clean out the lint and gunk from there also. My needle plate kept popping off when I was sewing through multiple layers and I was about to take it to a shop to get serviced. Well, I removed the plate and was I surprised to see how much lint had been packed into the feed dogs under the plate. It was a wonder that the machine could even sew! Do NOT use compressed air as that will just blow the lint farther into the machine. Use a small nylon brush to get into the tiny space. If you show your machine a little love, it will love you back!

Cindi

A New GREEN Project for Everyone

During the holidays, on MLK day to be specific I bought together some of my quilting friends and church friends and we made reusable, washable grocery bags. We met at my church in Homer and we sewed for just a few hours and we had grocery bags to take home. They are very simple and take only a yard of fabric and no extra skills of any kind. We had some beginners there and they didn't have any problems. Here are some pictures of the bags we made. I've just been asked to teach a class on them in August. See you then.

Bonnie Haaland



Service Project Update

Marilouise and I would like to send out a huge thank you to all that donated materials, made quilts on your own or came to sew. We are well on our way to making over 60 quilts for the YMCA in downtown. Over 30 members came to the January Service Project day in January and we were able to assemble 15 quilts. Mary from the YMCA came and was very impressed with all of our hard work and teamwork. Well, almost quilts. We are in the process of adding side panels to make them into the width needed, but that is not very hard. Then on to the binding! Over 25 members have signed up to make a quilt on their own with batting provided by the Guild. Some folks wanted instructions on how to add the side panels, so here it is:

First trim off excess fabric all the way around. Measure the width of the quilted panel, probably around 40 inches. Subtract from 63, round up and divide by 2, then add 1 inch.

Example: $63 - 40 = 23$ rounded to 24, divide by 2 = 12, add 1 = 13 (I usually do 14 inches)

Prepare 2 pieces of fabric that coordinate with the back to measure 13 x 94.

Prepare 2 pieces of batting that measures 14 x 94, if you use scraps, be sure to connect them in some way so they will not shift.

Prepare 2 strips of white or cream fabric for the front, 2 1/2 x 94.

Prepare 2 strips of fabric that coordinates with front of quilt, 11 x 94.

Pin the back strip to back, right sides together, helps keep the edges stable. Pin the narrow strip to front, right sides together, using same pins. Sew the 2 strips onto quilt. Can be done in one step.

Iron both strips outward, be sure they are straight and tight. Here comes the tricky part, best done on a long, flat surface. Fold back the narrow strip on the front and lay the batting strip tight against the seam you just sewed, do not overlap. Pin the batting to the backing about 4 inches away from the seam. Leave these pins in for now.

Flip the narrow strip back over the batting, smooth it out. Lay the next front strip onto the strip, right sides together. Be sure everything stays smooth. Sew the strip on. This will anchor the batting.

Flip this strip out and remove those extra pins. Iron and smooth everything again. Place a row of pins onto the new strip about 5 inches from the newest seam. Using whatever method you choose, straight line quilt 2-4 inches apart down this strip.

Repeat on other side.





Quilt Retreat Adventures

Many of us have a list of quilting related activities that we long to do like go to Paducah, take a quilting cruise or visit the Houston AQS show. One desire Gaynell Dorrance, Berta Keeler, Jeannine Lloyd and Nancy Sellers had was to go on a quilt retreat together. After several years of discussion and searching, we finally were able to find a time and place to go. In October 2018, we traveled together (in one minivan) to Bloom Quilts in Margaretville, NY, on the edge of the Catskill Mountains.

Bloom is a cute fabric store and small retreat center that looked just perfect for our 2-night adventure. Well, turns out, it was beyond perfect, and we had such a great time that we went back again in October 2019, but this time for 4 nights! A quilt retreat can be whatever the participants want it to be. Bringing sewing projects is obvious, but there is so much more. Laughter, sharing, singing, eating, margaritas, and especially hiking were all memorable parts of our quilt retreat adventures. On the net page are some photos of our retreat experience. We can't wait to go back again in 2020 and we encourage other Towpath members to find a few friends and plan a retreat somewhere together!

Happy Quilting and Happy Trails!
Gay, Berta, Jeannine and Nancy



Upcoming Quilt Shows

April 10-11 Lake To Lake Quilt Guild Quilt Show at Geneva Community Center, Geneva, NY

April 24-25 Plank Road Quilt Guild Quilt Show at Cicero UMC, Cicero, NY





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History of the Towpath Quilt Guild

As our guild moves closer to its 40th anniversary let's spend some time learning about the beginnings of the guild. Here is an excerpt from our historian files: "The Towpath Quilt Guild was born in the spring of 1981, developing from an informal quilt show at the Fayetteville Public Library. The Founding Mothers- **Marty Bowne, Lee Burnham, Donna Fuller, Jean Hughes, and Phyllis Scutt**, worked diligently following that show to create the Guild. The first meeting, March 1981, held at Fayetteville's Merchant Bank, had an attendance of thirty quilters. Attendance of the April meeting doubled to sixty! The bank no longer was able to accommodate the numbers attending and the meetings were moved to the United Methodist Church. What a growth spurt, within six months the membership blossomed from a mere thirty to over 100 members!

Right from its birth, the Guild has been industrious in its endeavors. May of 1981, two months after the first formal meeting, the Guild invited Michael James to speak at a public program. Response from the community was over-whelming, attendance was excellent, and as a result the Guild's treasury was firmly established.

The informal quilt shows in public libraries continued for 2 more years. In 1985 the first formal two day Quilt Show occurred. Now these shows are scheduled every other year, in the spring."

Annual dues in these early days was \$10. "Beverages and refreshments are not served at the Guild meetings. Coffee and tea stains are difficult to remove from the precious quilts and quilting during the meetings is never discouraged. Members are however, invited to bring lunches for after the meetings and stay for the afternoon to work in informal groups."

"Small groups are also formed for Friendship quilts. Each member of the group assembles the fabrics for her quilt in a large box, along with plans and instructions. Boxes are passes, at the Guild meetings, from one group member to another. Each group member makes one block a month from the box she receives, simultaneously someone else is doing a block for her. With 18 persons in a group, 18 blocks are made over the course of 18 months for each group member. At the end of 18 months the blocks are laid out and planning for settings and quilting designs are discussed for each quilt."

Programs for 1981-1982 year of operation:

August: Michael James, Quiltmaker Inspirations and Innovations in Contemporary Quiltmaking

September: Tis the Season to be Quilting: Christmas ideas for small gifts.

October: Quilted Fashion Show: Show and tell- Wear or bring any quilted clothing you have made...

November: History of Quilting

December: Gifts and Ornaments and Christmas party

January: Denim Patch Workshop



Help us identify these early Towpath members and quilters

Pictures From First Towpath Quilt Guild Show



Holiday Party Pictures Or We Like to Bake as Much as Quilt



Notice

We have a number of members who have asked not to have their pictures published. Please make it your responsibility to remove yourself from group pictures at our meetings and social events. There were some great pictures of events that could not be included in the newsletter.





WELCOME NEW MEMBER VICTORIA SWANSON

Victoria (Vicki) Swanson has many interests – sewing, reading, gardening, going to concerts, doing projects involving painting and spending time with her husband. She calls herself a “maker” and is now learning to crochet. Her greatest blessing is her relationships with people she loves and cares about, including her husband of 3 ½ years, her daughter and family, and even her ex-husband and his extended family. When she worked, her colleagues told her one of her greatest assets was being a peace-keeper, speaking the truth in kindness to build relationships of trust.

Vicki admits that as a child and teen she was painfully shy. But as she worked she became more confident and even gave a report at a conference to an audience of 2000. Toward the end of her career, she took an emotional intelligence test and tested as an extrovert.

Vicki enjoys traveling and has visited 40 states, Canada, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Germany, England and Scotland. A trip west in 2017 with her husband stands out as they went to Phoenix, Sedona, the Grand Canyon, Yosemite and traveled the Pacific Coast Highway. On a trip with her daughter to Munich, they planned to take a train to Zugspitze in the Alps. But on the train, they discovered they were going in the wrong direction and had to catch another train going the opposite way. As you may imagine, her bucket list includes more travel – taking grandchildren to Disney and a trip to investigate ancestry, England/Scotland for her and Sweden for her husband. She also wants to design and make an art quilt worthy of being shown.



Learn More About Kathie Kline

Kathie’s greatest blessing is her family. She met her husband in high school and they will celebrate a golden anniversary this year! They were blessed with four children and now have four beautiful grandchildren. Kathie loves time spent sewing, watching TV and if at camp, enjoys quiet time reading or playing games on her tablet.

Kathie’s best trip was six years ago when she and her husband went to Arizona to visit her sister and were able to make several side trips: Tombstone, Indian casinos, the mountains, a train ride to the south rim of the Grand Canyon, a visit to the Hualapai tribe. She also went to Old Vegas and New Vegas. A trip back to Utah is on her bucket list and this trip would include the five national parks.

Kathie felt embarrassed last summer when she fell backwards in the garden and broke her wrist. Good thing she didn’t have any other injuries.

A Quilt Shop on Sanibel Island in Florida

Every year my husband and I go to Florida for 2 weeks of sunshine and relaxation after the holidays. One of my favorite things to do while we are there is visit "Three Crafty Ladies" quilt shop. Yes, even on this tiny barrier island there is a great quilt shop. For a very small shop they have a wide variety of material, kits and inspiration. I never leave without something in my shopping bag. This year my husband saw a pattern for a 3-D starfish. Of course I had to have it and have made a few of them already; they are very cute. The shop also participates in ROW BY ROW, and last year, their row was a tarpon fish. My husband is a fisherman and I was able to pre-order the kit and it now resides in my bin of "Rows" that are also on my UFO list. If you are ever visiting this island paradise check out Three Crafty Ladies or visit their on-line store.

Robin Brennan

Fat Quarter Raffle

Take a chance to grow your stash. Bring a fat quarter to each meeting to be in a drawing to win a big bunch of like minder fat quarters.

March—Ugly Fabric

April—Past3ls

May—Polka Dots



Limestone Threads
 Barbara Smith
 Online Fabric Retailer
 315-622-8601
www.limestonethreads.com
Limestonethreads@outlook.com



Spring QCNYS MEETING

TUESDAY, March 17, 2020

Life Church,

7125 Collamer Rd., East Syracuse, NY 13057

hosted by Pick Your Stitch

Social Hour 9:30AM - 10:30AM


Meeting 10:30AM

\$5.00

Brown Bag Meeting

Cancellation in case of winter storm is possible.

The registration form is on the QCNYS website



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Want Ads

I am selling my sit down Bailey's Home Quilter 20 pro. I bought it in 2016. It works fine. I have only used it on 8-10 quilts. I want to sell it to make more space in my sewing room. The table is included. I paid \$2700 and asking \$2000 Call me at 325-857-4012
 Thanks Arlene King



Down Memory Lane

Liz Anderson Wrote:

This was a reception for Jane Tracy held at the Betts library. Some of her quilts were hung to show her MANY skills. Ladies from her Onondaga Hill sewing group spoke of the fun they all had together. Several of us spoke about her activities with Towpath. Then Jane made a speech about her contributions and fun with quilting. It was such a nice tribute for Jane.

Left to right, Angela Maroun, Liz Anderson, Bob Tracy, Jane Tracy, Linda Hazelden, Dolly Monteleone



FOR SALE - Handi Quilter Sweet Sixteen (HQSS) Sit Down Quilting Machine. Purchased in 2015, excellent condition. Package includes many extras: HQSS Sit Down Quilting Machine, table, table overlay, Tru Stitch Regulator, M-class bobbin winder, 3 M-class Bobbin cases, 22 M-Class bobbins, 100 Groz-Beckert long arm needles, set of 3 Echo Feet, set of 3 Couching feet, Glide foot, Sure Foot for ruler work, HQ 6 X 1/2" Line Grid ruler, HQ Right Angle ruler. Total value is approximately \$7000. Will sell for \$4,500 FIRM. Contact ~ donitawhelan@gmail.com or 315-692-8080 (Hm) or 315-897-9505 (Cell)





**February Workshops
Work**



**Marilouise and Kathy working at
Service Project Day**

National Quilting Day

National Quilting Day is on Saturday, March 21st this year. Towpath Quilt Guild member are invited to participate in the WEE LITTLE QUILTS project to benefit the Quilt Consortium of New York State (QCNYS) scholarship fund.

Our guild has chosen this project because several Towpath members have received \$100 scholarships for educational classes from the NYSQC.

The Consortium was able to offer double the amount of scholarships for 2020 as they did in 2019, because of the increase of the number of 10" x 10" WEE LITTLE QUILTS donated in 2019. The WEE LITTLE QUILTS will be sold to the public for \$10 each at the QCNYS 2021 Best of New York Quilt Show.

WHAT IS A WEE LITTLE QUILT?

1. Wee Little Quilts (aka small fiber art quilts) are 10 inches x 10 inches.
2. These quilts may be pieced, applique, thread work, painted, dyed, paper-pieced, etc. – any technique and any fiber medium. They can have a finished edge without a binding.



Laura Smelski tells us that she is one of eleven children so growing up each child had assigned chores on a weekly basis. Sharing a bedroom with two sisters and wearing hand-me-down clothing was the norm. She states that she doesn't know how her parents did it! But, they did, and we have the joy of having one of those siblings in Towpath Quilt Guild!

She is an outdoors person and enjoys walks along the Erie Canal in Camillus or hikes around Green Lakes. Warmer weather will find her biking around Onondaga Lake. Pickleball and golf take up much of her free time. She is on two local golf leagues and works part-time at the Green Lakes Golf Shop during the season.

Three trips to Ireland are her most memorable travels, one having been with her daughter who at the time was 25. Laura enjoyed witnessing her daughter's eagerness to see the country, and an added bonus was meeting some of their distant relatives in Northern Ireland. Neither mother nor daughter enjoyed some of the windy, hilly, narrow roads with no guardrails, but they pressed on and "got through it".

Laura considers her greatest blessing to be her children.

In responding to the question of having had an embarrassing moment, she replies that she does have one when she cannot recall someone's name. Another situation she relates, "A moment I remember that was quite embarrassing occurred at the Prom. I was dancing with platform shoes—I thought I looked so cool with them until I tripped over my feet and fell right in front of my boyfriend. I ran to the bathroom until I could summon the courage to go back to the dance hall."

In all honesty, Laura confesses that she "really enjoyed cutting classes" in high school, coming up with some novel ideas! She was not happy that her parents enrolled her in a Catholic high school when she would have preferred attending public school.

Her bucket list includes, visiting all the National Parks, getting back to crocheting, and keeping an open relationship with her grandchildren. We wish her well in these endeavors

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Wenda Coburn
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Sally Hyde lived in the Syracuse area after graduating from Syracuse University, then she moved to Pennsylvania and resided there for 35 years. Now, fortunately for us, she returned to this area and has become a member of Towpath Quilt Guild.

She has three sons, one of whom lives in Liverpool raising his four sons.

Quilting and gardening take up her free time and she is happy in her small home with a large yard. She enjoys walking at Green Lakes with her constant companion, her dog. She volunteers at the Ronald McDonald House and makes quilts for the children.

Sally states that her greatest enjoyment in life is time spent on the St. Lawrence River with family and friends. And her bucket list includes visiting the western national parks and taking a European Viking cruise. Perhaps someday soon, Sally will share those experiences!





TOWPATH QUILT GUILD
BOX 188
FAYETTEVILLE, NY
13066

Along the Towpath...

Towpath Quilt Guild meets at 9:30 AM on the second Tuesday of the month at United Methodist Church of Fayetteville, Genesee Street, Fayetteville, NY. In the event of bad weather, we follow the Fayetteville-Manlius school closings.

Annual dues are \$25.00 payable at the September meeting. Members save \$5.00 by registering by mail before September 1st. Guests are welcome to attend a maximum of two meetings at \$3.00 per meeting. After that time the fees may be applied to the annual dues.

The guild newsletter, **Along the Towpath**, is published four times a year and is included in the annual dues. Non-members may subscribe to the newsletter for \$5.00 per year by contacting the editor. Cut off dates for receiving new material are, Jan. 15, April 15, July 15, and October 15.

Ads will be published at the following per issue rates:

- Classified-3 line \$5.00
- Business card size \$8.00
- 1/4 page \$14.00
- 1/2 page \$20.00
- Full page \$26.00
- (Each member can place one free 3-line ad per year)

Towpath Quilt Guild Board of Directors

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